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Brantree Rural
District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR

1972



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BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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(To May, 1972)

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(To Jan. 1972)

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(From June 1972)

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(From Oct. 1972)

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(From June 1972)

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Miss P. E. G. Wood

G. A. Wright, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Elizabeth J. Vaughan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. Organ, M.A.P.H.I., CERT R.S.I. (Meat and Other Foods)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

W. R. Gage, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

D. W. Harper, M.A.P.H.I., DIP. (Meat and Other Foods)

Meat Inspector

I. Jones R.S.H. Certificate in Meat Inspection

Technical Assistant and Housing Officer

R. F. Twitchett

Senior Clerical Assistant

Mrs. V. T. Debbage

Junior Clerks

Mrs. G. G. Stone

Mrs. S. D. Biggin (To 30th November, 1972)

Miss W. J. Bloomfield (From 20th November, 1972)

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Braintree.
CM7 6HB

June 1973.

To the Chairman and Members of Braintree Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the area.

I am grateful to Dr. J. A. Slattery, Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex, for providing statistics of the work carried out at the Essex County Council Clinics in the area.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 24,400, an increase of 640 since 1971.

There were in the Council's area 431 live births recorded, male births continuing to exceed female, in 1971 there being 231 male and 200 female births. There were 14 illegitimate live births representing 3.0 per cent of all live births.

There were again 6 infant deaths recorded giving an infant mortality rate of 14 compared with the national average of 17.

The death rate for all ages was 10.5 which compares favourably with the national figure of 12.1.

The tables relating to the incidence of notified infectious diseases are as usual included in the report. It was a good year with only 4 cases of scarlet fever, 3 infective hepatitis, 33 measles and 2 food poisoning cases notified.

The promotion of health in the context of the environment continued throughout the year. Drinking water, supplied by Colchester Water Board was in general satisfactory both in quality and in quantity. There was, however, a short period during the early part of the year when the nitrate-nitrogen level in the Eastern part of the area again rose above the maximum recommended level and there were also some complaints relating to taste and lack of pressure. Fluoride level at Terling waterworks continued to be below the level necessary to prevent in early life dental decay later. With regard to drainage and sewerage, the Great Saling and Shalford scheme was completed in 1972, also the new treatment works at White Notley and work on the Bradwell and Stisted scheme started during the year. It is a matter for concern however that the Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering scheme was not begun during 1972.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff and also my colleagues in other departments for their co-operation throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	59,234
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	24,400
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	...	...	...	...	8,824
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£1925,094
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£7,610

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	225	192	417
Illegitimate	6	8	14
Total live births	231	200	431

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	17.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	3.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.93	...	16.5
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	...	14.8

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	7.0
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	...	12.0

INFANT DEATHS.

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total infant deaths	4	2	6

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	14.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	14.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	12.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	18.0
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births	17.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	Nil

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	130	126	256

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	10.5
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.94	...	9.9
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	12.1

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1972

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the seventy-three headings based on the International Abbreviated List (B list) of the International Classification. The original list, circulated to Medical Officers of Health in 1968, has been changed to include additional headings in order to improve comparability with statistics published each year in the Registrar General's Statistical Review. Only those cause headings with deaths allocated to them are shown.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases ...	-	1
Late effects of respiratory tuberculosis ...	-	1
Syphilis and its sequelae ...	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus ...	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine ...	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	12	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate ...	2	-
Leukaemia ...	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms ...	5	10
Diabetes mellitus ...	1	3
Other endocrine etc. diseases ...	1	-
Anaemias ...	-	1
Mental disorders ...	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system ...	-	4
Chronic rheumatic heart disease ...	1	2
Hypertensive disease ...	1	3
Ischaemic heart disease ...	40	21
Other forms of heart disease ...	7	6
Cerebrovascular disease ...	10	15
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	9	5
Pneumonia ...	15	15
Bronchitis and emphysema ...	3	1
Asthma ...	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	-	1
Peptic ulcer ...	2	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia ...	-	3
Other diseases of digestive system ...	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system ...	1	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system ...	-	3
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ...	3	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality ...	-	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions ...	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	-
All other accidents ...	3	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries ...	1	-
Total all causes		126

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Child Health Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

			<u>Attendances</u>
<u>BLACK NOTLEY</u>			
Village Hall	2nd Thursday	2 p.m.	278
<u>COGGESHALL</u>			
St. Peter's Room	1st 3rd & 5th Tues.	2 p.m.	1,146
School Clinic	2nd Monday	10 a.m.	47
<u>CRESSING</u>			
Mission Hall, Tye Green	1st Monday	2 p.m.	272
<u>GREAT BARDFIELD</u>			
Town Hall	1st Monday	2 p.m.	341
<u>TERLING</u>			
The New Village Hall	1st Tuesday	2 p.m.	325
<u>HATFIELD PEVEREL</u>			
Church Hall, Maldon Road	2nd & 4th Tues.	2 p.m.	950
<u>KELVEDON</u>			
St. Mary's Hall	2nd Friday	2.30 p.m.	72
<u>WETHERSFIELD</u>			
Village Hall	2nd & 4th Mon.	2.15 p.m.	451

(ii) Home Help Service

This service is administered from the Social Services Department, 9-13 Bocking End, Braintree.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Rural District Of Braintree is served by the Ambulance Station, Braintree and Witham.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents, the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1 or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) Chest Clinics

These are held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-
Measles	33	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Totals	42	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total Noti- fied	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	33	-	-	-	1	1	2	17	9	2	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	42	1	1	-	3	2	3	17	10	2	1	-	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASES	At all ages	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64	65 & over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Encephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food poisoning	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	33	5	3	4	1	7	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Totals	42	5	4	4	2	8	13	1	2	1	1	1	1	2

DISEASES	Total Notified	Gt. Bardfield	Bradwell	Coggeshall	Cressing	Fairstead	Faulkbourne	Peering	Flinchingfield	Hatfield Peverel	Kelvedon	Black Notley	White Notley	Panfield	Pattiswick	Rayne	Bardfield Saling	Gt. Saling	Shalford	Stisted	Terling	Wethersfield
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	33	-	1	1	4	-	-	2	-	1	1	21	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	42	-	1	1	6	1	-	4	-	2	1	23	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>By General Practitioners</u>	<u>By County Staff</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	243	137	380
Diphtheria and Tetanus	3	7	10
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	18	5	23
Polio-myelitis	245	152	397
Smallpox	31	-	31
B.C.G.	-	23	23
Measles	260	72	332
Rubella	2	36	38
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u>			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	44	5	49
Diphtheria and Tetanus	109	183	292
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Pertussis	-	-	-
Tetanus	52	68	120
Polio-myelitis	161	264	425
Smallpox	18	-	18
B.C.G.	-	-	-

BIRTH RATE/DEATH RATE TRENDS IN RECENT YEARS

Year	Population	Corrected Birth Rate		Corrected Death Rate	
		<u>National</u>	<u>Braintree R.D.</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Braintree R.D.</u>
1962	23,140	18.0	17.7	11.9	11.4
1963	23,100	18.2	17.6	12.2	10.2
1964	23,910	18.4	18.6	11.3	8.5
1965	24,200	18.0	17.8	11.5	8.9
1966	24,110	17.7	17.2	11.7	8.5
1967	24,520	17.2	16.5	11.2	7.9
1968	24,770	16.9	15.8	11.9	9.3
1969	25,120	16.3	16.8	11.9	10.0
1970	24,440	16.0	19.7	11.7	11.0
1971	23,760	16.0	18.5	11.6	10.0
1972	24,400	14.8	16.5	12.1	9.9

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
St. Peter's Close,
Bocking, Braintree.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this, my 26th report, on the Sanitary Circumstances of the District and the work of the Public Health Inspector's and Housing Department for the year ending 31st December, 1972. Once again it follows the usual pattern in being largely statistical with some enlargement on the more important duties.

This could be my last report on the Braintree Rural District since much of the information required for these reports will not be available by the 31st March next when this Council ceases to exist, and as such it is probably appropriate for a certain amount of reflection before looking to the future.

Public Health, or Environmental Health as it is now more commonly known, is to a large extent abstract and difficult to measure in terms of achievement, particularly when dealing with such matters as noise abatement and atmospheric pollution, both accepted today as being of paramount importance to one's personal well being.

Many of the functions of the Health Department are imposed by law and are to a large extent officer controlled according to accepted standards, and do not therefore call for detailed member participation. Considerable responsibility therefore rests on the shoulders of the individual officer and his success or otherwise can only be judged in fairly general terms. Housing in the private sector is perhaps one field where results are more tangible and here I think it is reasonable to claim that much has been achieved in the Braintree Rural District over the years. Slums, as they are regarded in larger towns or cities are virtually non-existent, although there are still a number of dwellings which do not meet the standard of fitness required by the Housing Acts. The policy of trying to achieve repair and improvement of older dwellings where practicable as distinct from demolition and clearance has I am sure paid off handsomely, and looking around the District to-day at many properties as they now exist, it is almost impossible to remember them as they were several years ago. Possibly a greater use of photography to provide a permanent record would have been worth while.

Meat and Food supervision and control has always been regarded as of paramount importance and once again whilst there is little to see on the surface, apart from the considerable improvement in food shops etc. over the last few years, I feel confident that the efforts made in this field have been reflected in the comparative freedom from food poisoning and other illnesses associated with food.

What of the future? 1973 will inevitably show some diminution in routine work due to the time spent by various officers in connection with Local Government Re-organisation. This is essential if the departments of the five Authorities forming the new Braintree District Council are to be brought smoothly together by the 1st April, 1974. Beyond that date it is probably better to keep an open mind. The formation of larger units of Local Government will bring problems, i.e. extended lines of communication, loss of local and personal contact, etc., but I am confident that these and other problems can and will be overcome, given the right spirit and a little time. There can be little doubt that the new era soon to be entered into will be an interesting challenge both to officers and members of the new Council alike.

In conclusion, I must thank the officers responsible for providing the information on Drainage and Sewerage and Water Supplies; and my thanks and appreciation to all Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation in the past; to Councillors for their interest and support, and by no means least to my staff for their loyalty and efficient manner in which they have so readily carried out their duties.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. ORGAN

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

This section of the report is based largely on information supplied by the Colchester Water Board who are currently responsible for the provision and maintenance of a pure and adequate supply of water throughout the district. Present records are kept in a different manner to those of this Council prior to April 1969 and therefore makes it impossible to give separate information for the Braintree Rural District on some aspects. Also the figures quoted are for the year ending 31st March, 1973 and not the calendar year of 1972.

Once again, the supplies remained generally satisfactory in both quantity and quality, but apart from the usual complaints of lack of pressure, total loss of water due to bursts and other circumstances etc., there was a considerable increase in the number of complaints of taint and or smell. These were investigated locally as well as being referred to the Water Board and were usually found to be associated with over chlorination.

Twenty-seven samples of water were taken by the Council's Officers during the year from supplies within the District and 1,254 by the Board from the whole of their area. Of the latter 1,193 were satisfactory, 9 suspicious, and 47 unsatisfactory. Of the 47 unsatisfactory samples 17 were taken from the raw water at Terling Springs, a fact which is not really surprising in view of the past history of this supply. However, the gas chlorinator at these works is quite capable of taking care of any likely contamination and the supply is further protected by an automatic cut-out which stops the pumps if the chlorinator should fail.

This water is chlorinated to give a residual of 0.6 p.p.m. as it passes into supply, whilst the majority of other sources are chlorinated to give a residual of 0.2 p.p.m.

During the year 7.38 miles of mains were laid in the Braintree Urban and Rural Districts and 759 houses connected to the distribution system; both figures being an increase on the previous year. Separate figures are not available for the two authorities.

Details of the quantity of water pumped at the three stations in the area are given below together with a typical Analyst's report on each water. In addition to the quantities from 202,836,000 gallons were taken in bulk from the Lea Valley Water Company, the West Suffolk Water Board, and the Essex Water Company to augment supplies in the Braintree and Halstead Rural Districts.

Details of the various works herewith:-

Petches Bridge Waterworks.

Quantity of gallons pumped 1972/1973	...	...	95,211,000
Daily average pumped 1972/1973	...	...	260,000

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from very minute traces of iron and zinc. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes, from the aspect of the chemical analysis. Its hardness would however be disadvantageous for uses with soap or for the formation of scale in heating appliances.

Fluoride content 1.0p.p.m.

Coggeshall Waterworks

Number of gallons pumped 1972/1973	...	...	35,542,000
Daily average pumped 1972/1973	...	...	97,000

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of zinc. The hardness of the water is moderate; its somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents is substantially normal for this source and is not considered excessive for drinking or domestic purposes. The water conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses, from the aspect of the chemical analysis. The content of fluoride is however higher than is considered most desirable, (from the aspect of causing mottled enamel),

Fluoride content 3.7p.p.m.

Terling Waterworks (Springs)

Number of gallons pumped 1972/1973	...	...	24,399,000
Daily average pumped 1972/1973	...	...	67,000

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, almost neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is exceedingly hard in character but otherwise contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a pure and wholesome water, from the aspect of the chemical analysis. Its high hardness will however be disadvantageous for uses with soap.

Fluoride content - less than 0.01 p.p.m.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Generally

It is pleasing to report some real progress in the provision of new schemes during the year.

The Great Saling and Shalford Scheme was completed in July and by the end of the year a considerable number of properties in both villages were connected with the result that seven small estate plants were removed.

The new treatment works at White Notley was also completed in July and the old works demolished.

This also enabled two temporary estate plants to be removed as the properties were connected to the sewerage system.

Work on the Bradwell and Stisted Scheme was commenced in September and by the end of the year good progress had been made. This scheme should be completed by the end of 1973.

The one remaining major scheme still not actually commenced at the end of 1972 is the largest one of all, the Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering Scheme.

Reference has been made in previous reports on the slow progress in the preparation of this very important scheme. However, by the end of the year some further progress had been made, both in land acquisitions and detailed preparation and Tenders should be invited in the latter part of 1973.

The importance of this Scheme cannot be underestimated and no effort should be spared to get the Scheme to Contract.

It will be seen that many insanitary areas have been cleared up during the year but small isolated areas still remain.

It has not been possible to make progress on the preparation of these very small schemes owing to staff shortages, etc. but ultimately attention must be given to them.

With impending re-organisation of Local Government in 1974, the functions of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal may not be a duty of Local Authorities.

Proposed legislation on these functions is expected during 1973.

The detailed position with regard to the various works is as follows:-

Coggeshall and Kelvedon

The condition of both these works and the pumping stations continues to deteriorate.

While every effort is made to maintain and operate them as well as possible, their condition is such that it is extremely difficult to produce satisfactory effluents, and as previously

stated, flooding occurs in times of heavy rain. The removal and disposal of sludge from Coggeshall works is also expensive.

Hatfield Peverel and Terling

These works continue to operate well producing an effluent of high standard.

The effluent discharged from the creamery involves continual supervision and maintenance to ensure the high effluent standard required.

Rayne and Panfield

This plant is operating almost to design load and continues to produce satisfactory effluents.

Shalford and Great Saling

Effluent samples taken from these new works at Shalford were satisfactory.

By the end of the year the works was operating at approximately 50% of its design load and connections of private properties by owners continue to be made.

Wethersfield

Both civilian and Air Ministry sections of these works continue to operate well, producing good quality effluents.

The flow received from R.A.F. Station, Wethersfield is now relatively low but in no way reduces the work of maintenance.

During the year the pumps at Great Bardfield Pumping Station were reconditioned.

White Notley

The new works on this site were commissioned and the old works demolished.

Effluent samples taken from the new works showed it is producing an effluent conforming to the high standard required by the River Authority.

The pumps at White Notley Pumping Station were reconditioned during the year.

Cornish Hall End

The small extended aeration plant with humus tank continued to operate well during the year although isolated occurrences of high suspended solids in the effluent were noted.

The problem was rapidly solved by more frequent desludging of the humus tank.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection of Domestic Refuse

This important service continued to function smoothly and satisfactorily throughout 1972. The few complaints received were of a very trivial nature, sometimes unwarranted. Quite a number of complimentary remarks were made both by the Parish Councils and members of the public regarding the regularity and efficiency of this service. Holidays, both Bank and Annual, came and went with the absolute minimum of inconvenience to householders, and here some credit must be given to the workmen themselves in achieving this.

Two new vehicles were purchased during the year, the first in February, and the second, of a much more advanced design in October.

Suggestions have already been made that in the new Authority, the collection of refuse should be the responsibility of the Officer controlling manual labour. The efficient removal of refuse is essentially a public health matter and it is vitally important that if satisfactory standards of environmental health are to be maintained, this work should remain under the supervision of the Environmental Health section of the Authority.

Disposal of Refuse

It is now known that from the 1st April, 1974, responsibility for refuse disposal will be transferred to the County Council. A county Working Party on Waste Disposal is already operational and this Council is represented on it. First indications are that disposal facilities in the area of the Braintree District Council will be critical by April, 1974 and it could well be that the tip at Shalford could be the main, if not the only tip, to be in use in a very short while.

There were problems in maintaining the Shalford Pit in a satisfactory manner due largely to the frequency of breakdowns with the mechanical shovel. It is obvious that this machine will have to be replaced much earlier than originally anticipated but this is due to the enormous amount of work that has been achieved with it.

It is pleasing to report that once again there were no complaints regarding flies, smell, or vermin and the satisfactory state of the pit was commented upon by Officers of the Planning and County Health Officers Departments.

Car and Vans Act, 1967

103 visits were made during the year to investigate abandoned motor vehicles. As a result of these visits 16 cars were removed for disposal as scrap, at a cost to the Council of £56.00 and of £110.50 was recovered from car owners.

In quite a few instances there was considerable delay between detection or notification and actual removal but this was due in almost every case to protracted identification of owners, and Police and Hire Purchase enquiries.

Routine clearance coped adequately with the comparatively small amount of indiscriminate dumping although there was a sudden upsurge just after Christmas. One fails to understand the mentality of the person who literally fills his car with rubbish, and takes it often quite a number of miles into the country (sometimes into an adjoining Authority area) whereas a telephone call or a letter to his own Authority with a request for collection would have obviated the need for this.

One prosecution by the Police for illegal dumping was pending at the end of the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

1972

Housing Inspections	54
Revisits and inspections of work in progress	201
Visits to premises and interviews with owners, builders etc.	250
Visits and inspections re Improvement Grants	388
Visits re Council House applications and exchanges	299
Visits and inspections prior to removals to Council Houses	152
Visits and inspections re Old Persons Flatlets	130
Visits and inspections following rent arrears & Notices to Quit	82
Visits re Garage Allocations	17
Visits re overcrowding and permitted numbers	7
Visits re Certificates of Disrepair	7
Visits re Qualification Certificates	4
Visits to investigate complaints	213
Notifiable Disease enquiries	23
Notifiable Disease disinfections	1
Infestations by insect pests	32
Infestations by rats and mice	6
Visits to premises re water supplies	3
water samples taken	27
Visits to premises re drainage to sewer	135
Conversion of Pail Closets etc.	18
Drains inspected and tested	5
Sewage Disposal Works	16
Inspection of Swimming Pools (Samples Taken)	13
Inspection of Schools	2
Refuse Collection	80
Refuse Tips (controlled)	104
Refuse Dumps	53
Abandoned cars	103
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	5
Inspections re Atmospheric pollution	5
Inspections re Smoke/Grit Nuisance	3
Noise Abatement Act, 1960.	1
Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions Act, 1956)	3
Food and Drugs Acts (Visits to food preparing premises	17
Inspections of Bakehouses	3
Inspections of Butchers Shops	38
Inspections of Cafe's	9
Inspections of Canteens including schools	9
Inspections of General Stores	18
Inspections of Greengrocers	4
Inspections of Ice cream Premises	2
Inspections of Public Houses and Off Licences	11
Inspections of Poultry Preparation Premises	2
Inspections and visits to Slaughterhouses	1,152
Inspections of Knackers Yard	298
Factories Act, 1961. Inspection re Power	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	40
Pet animals Act, 1951.	1
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.	22
Licensing Act, 1961.	2
Miscellaneous visits and Inspections	245

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

Five existing licences were renewed for 1972. These premises were all very well maintained, and the only problem which arose from one of them was noise from barking dogs. This is an extremely difficult matter to control since dogs kept in strange premises and often closely situated to other dogs of a different temperament, do tend to become unsettled and to bark more than usual.

This point emphasises the need for very careful consideration of new applications for licences under Planning Control and the above Act.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Details of the number and types of premises registered under this Act, the number of persons employed therein and the inspections carried out by the Department, are given in the table on a later page.

Routine inspections have been maintained as far as practicable but more attention to this aspect of the work would be desirable if circumstances permitted. No accidents were reported during the year.

Moveable Dwellings

No new site licences were issued under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, during the year, the number continuing to be licensed being 10.

Caravans are really no problem in this District. Those licensed are quite well maintained and others which appear from time to time, mostly on farms, are those occupied by casual farm workers who come into the area for pea-picking and other forms of harvesting. Generally speaking they do not create problems although litter is sometimes left behind.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement

Last year it was reported that there were hopeful indications of extensive redevelopment in connections with the only industry within the District that has persistently given rise to complaints of smoke and grit emissions over the years. Unfortunately this redevelopment did not take place with the result that the unsatisfactory emissions continued although complaints were not frequent. Unless this work is proceeded with reasonably soon the Council may be forced into taking legal action.

No other serious problems arose in other parts of the District.

One application under the Clean Air Act, 1968 for consent for a new furnace installation was received but initially refused. Consent was later given subject to the height of the chimney being in accordance with the Memoranda on Chimney Heights.

Noise Abatement

The greater awareness of the effect of noise and vibration on health was again evident during the year but apart from one complaint of noise from dogs previously referred to, others called for no formal action.

Vermin Infestation

No significant action was necessary during the year.

Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Acts, 1951

There are no premises registered under this Act and so far as is known no persons are operating in contravention of the Act.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the Rural District.

Swimming Pools

There are now three swimming pools in use at primary schools together with one private pool to which the village school has access.

In general, all these pools are constructed and maintained in accordance with the advice issued by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Regular advice was given and routine checks made regarding chlorination and p.h. value of the water and no problem arose.

Rodent Control

The maintenance of this service in an adequate form during 1972 was achieved with some considerable difficulty and due largely to the willingness of the two operators to work considerable overtime.

There is little doubt that the work load justifies the early consideration of an additional operator, particularly as the work is becoming more and more technical and exacting.

754 non-agricultural premises, of which 457 were infested by rats and 112 by mice; and 155 agricultural premises of which 83 were infested by rats and 132 by mice, were inspected and where necessary given the appropriate treatment. In addition premises were inspected by Officers of the Public Health Department where other duties were the primary reason for the visit and of these 45 were found to be infested by rats and 61 by mice.

The same two operators are used for the control of wasps and bees, neither of which were quite so numerous as in the previous year, but nevertheless at the peak were sufficient to keep the men very busy in coping with complaints.

Legionnaires

Information regarding premises falling within the scope of the Prevention of Legionnaires' Disease Regulations, 1969, and of inspections made, is given in tabular form on a later page.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1962
Details of Premises, etc.

	No. of Premises Registered During Year	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises Receiving General Inspection	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	2	33	4	127
Retail Shops	2	55	29	144
Wholesale Shops and warehouses	-	8	1	26
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	10	6	35
Fuel storage depots	-	1	-	10
	4	107	40	342
Number of visits of all kinds (including General Inspections to Registered Premises) ... 65				
			Total Males	Total Females
			144	198

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1961, and of the inspections made are to be found as follows:-

(1) INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	4	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	53	3	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Totals	57	3	-	-

(II) Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

Particulars	Found	Number of cases in which defects were			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
		Remedied	Referred		
			To U.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-	
Totals	-	-	-	-	

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Section 133 and 134)

	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in Aug. list required by Section 133 (1)(C)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel:-						
Making etc.	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cleaning & Washing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All others	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING

The number of additional units of accommodation provided in the District during 1972 was an increase of 58 on the previous year's figure.

Details are as follows:-

New Council Houses, Flats and Flatlets	54	
Private Enterprise Houses	179	
Conversion of other buildings	2	
Conversion to flats of larger dwellings	3	238
	<hr/>	
Less: Cases of reconditioning where units of accommodation were reduced:-		
Number of dwellings lost	8	
Number of properties demolished	17	25
	<hr/>	
		Net increase 213

At the end of the year there were 476 outstanding applications for housing accommodation, an increase of 22 on the previous year. The percentage of the total known to be in genuine and urgent need for re-housing is comparatively low, i.e. 20 per cent.

During the year the Council completed 54 units of accommodation which was an increase on 1971. The Housing Programme for 1972 allowed for further units at Hatfield Peverel.

The 54 new units produced were at the Central area, Hatfield Peverel and Barrack Yard Site, Rayne.

74 dwellings were modernised to varying degrees and of these 52 received assistance from the Council by way of either a Discretionary or Standard Improvement Grant.

No applications for Certificate of Disrepair were made during the year.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Housing Acts 1961/1964/1969.

Housing Finance Act, 1972.

Figures for the year ending 31st December, 1972:-

	Discretionary Grant Schemes	Standard Grant Schemes
(a) Number of Applications received	42	18
(b) Number of Applications approved by Council	42	18
(c) Number of improved dwellings completed	46	18

	Discretionary Grant Schemes	Standard Grant Schemes
(d) Number of improved dwellings completed	34	18
(e) Total amount involved in Grants approved	£35,523	£6,496
	£42,019	
(f) Actual amount paid in respect of the Standard Grant Schemes completed at (d)	£ 4,792. 19	

Rent Provisions

Only 4 applications for Qualification Certificates were received during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply and Dairies

Eleven distributors and one dairy remain registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

All Licences for Designated Milks are dealt with by the Essex County Council.

Brucella Abortus

There were no cases of Brucellosis notified as a result of samples taken by the Essex County Council.

Ice Cream Premises

No samples of ice cream were taken during the year owing to the difficulty in obtaining a freezing medium for use in transit to the laboratories.

Meat Inspection

Tabular information on this work is given later. It is interesting to note that the total number of animals killed is almost identical to last year; indeed the figures have varied little over the past few years. Generally, the percentage of animals affected with disease shows a further decline, although the percentage of pigs affected in some part by tuberculosis showed an increase.

There was no tuberculosis detected at all in cattle nor any Cysticercosis in any animals.

100% of all animals killed for human consumption were inspected as required by the 1963 Inspection Regulations.

Periodical visits to slaughterhouses were again made by the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Any adverse comments were relating to minor details but generally they expressed satisfaction with what they found.

In addition to the carcase meat condemned the following articles of food were destroyed:-

3 Tins of Meat	280 lbs. of Cake Mix
4 Tins of Fruit	336 lbs. of Rolled Oats
37 Tins of Vegetables	140 lbs. of Flour
35 lbs. of Fish	50 lbs. of Caster Sugar
247 lbs. of Milk Powder	61 lbs. of Gran. Sugar

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Seven complaints were received from householders regarding articles of food purchased and which were unsound or contained foreign matter. They were as follows:-

Loaf of bread with wasp
Loaf of bread with small insect
Chicken croquette- mouldy
Cornish Pasty - mouldy
Loaf of bread - mouldy
Frozen peas - unidentified foreign matter
Plastic sachet of milk containing earwig

Each complaint was investigated thoroughly, either within the District or with the co-operation of the Authority concerned.

Owing to the lack of evidence; passage of the offending product through too many hands, unwillingness of complainant to give evidence in court, no formal proceedings were instituted but a strong warning given to the offending producers.

It is still considered fairly certain that there must be many more cases that are not reported to the Department. It is essential to notify such cases in order to help the Authority in its efforts to produce and maintain satisfactory food products.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Tabular information showing the number of types of premises falling within the scope of these Regulations and giving additional information required by the Ministry is given at the end of this report.

Routine inspections of all food premises are maintained as far as practicable but again it would be desirable to do more in this field.

CARCASSES & OFFAL INSPECTED & CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Other Animals
Number killed and Inspected	2,649	271	129	2,328	10,547	7	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>	7	23	18	6	19	1	-
Whole carcasses condemned							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	306	130	36	70	533	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	11.82%	56.46%	34.11%	3.26%	5.23%	28.57%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	91	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.86%	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>							
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised & totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total Quantities of Meat Condemned

<u>Beef</u>	<u>Pork</u>	<u>Veal</u>	<u>Mutton</u>	<u>Horse Flesh</u>	<u>Total</u>
22,541	5,738	2,321	381	627	31,608
pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1970

Number of Premises in District

1. Bakeries	...	...	...	6
2. Butchers	...	...	...	14
3. Catering Establishments	...	...	...	35
4. Ice Cream	...	...	...	11
5. Grocery and General Stores	...	...	...	56
6. Public Houses	...	...	...	59

	Complying with Regulation 16 (1)	Regulation 19 Applicable (2)	Complying with Regulation 19
Bakeries	6	6	6
Butchers	14	14	13
Catering Establishments	35	35	35
Ice Cream	11	11	10
Grocery and General Stores	50	56	55
Public Houses	58	59	57

(1) Provision of wash hand basin with hot and cold running water

(2) Provision of sink with hot and cold running water

